

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-13. (Cancelled)

14.(Original) A purified polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a Na<sup>+</sup>/H<sup>+</sup> transporter polypeptide which when expressed confers increased salt tolerance in a plant; wherein the transporter polypeptide comprises: i. an amino acid sequence at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:2; and ii. fewer than 522 amino acids.

15.(Currently Amended) The polynucleotide of claim 14 wherein the nucleotide sequence is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ SEQ ID No. 9 ~~NOS:5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15.~~

16.(Cancelled)

17.(Original) The polynucleotide according to claim 10, wherein the nucleotide sequence is SEQ in NO:3.

18-20. (Cancelled)